

Camping Builds Independence, Emotional Maturity in Youngsters

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Sending a child to summer camp for the first time can be a troubled decision for a parent to make, but it is such a gratification of parental supervision that helps a youngster develop independence and emotional maturity. It is sometimes difficult for a parent to grow up in this respect as it is for a child.

It is true that some children are victims of homesickness and most adults can recall the very real anguish of this malady. However, summer camps provide a good chance to teach a child how to combat homesickness in a situation that provides plenty of diversion. There is usually a touch of the same sadness in some of his companions, but misery in such youthful company is likely to last only a few hours.

It may as well be faced that many parents suffer from hurt pride when their offspring depart cheerfully on the camp bus, and heavy hearts sometimes occur when youngsters fail to write from camp, or, at best, send a hurriedly scribbled note near the end of the camping season. Actually, this lack of correspondence is a reliable indication that a child is having a perfectly good time and is far too busy and happy for a boring letter writing.

Avoid Strain
Being sent off to camp is something that it is best not to spring as a "surprise," for to do so may be emotionally upsetting to the child. What is more, at last minute decision of this kind forces an already harried mother to spend two or three days shopping for the paraphernalia recommended in the camp literature. Like Christmas shopping, this is best done early to avoid strain.

Some parents find it helpful to prepare a child for the rough and ready living of camp life by taking him on one or more overnight camping trips. There are all kinds of camps

to which the entire family may go for as short a time as a week end or for an entire season. At any rate, it is generally advisable to limit a child's first introduction to camp life to one week away from home.

No Objection
There are times, however, when a child should not be sent to camp, even when he voices no objection. An appreciation of the situation takes understanding on the part of parents. Camp can be an exile if there is any jealousy among the children in a family. In such cases, avoid bundling one youngster off to camp and keeping the other at home.

For all kinds of children. Fathers especially tend to think of camp as a place to toughen a youngster and so make him better able to take care of himself among more aggressive playmates. But it is often true that a timid child toughens up faster in a camp that specializes in hobbies and crafts. The discovery that competency exists in fields other than muscular coordination is often all that a child needs to develop into a secure and self-confident individual.

However, although camping can be an excellent child development aid, no complete change in a child's habits can be expected to occur in a week or two. For example, a finicky appetite that took several years

to grow may still be finicky after camp, although it may well be less so. Growth is a gradual thing, and camping is designed to aid growth and to stimulate it—not achieve it overnight.

Top Worrying
If the camp has been selected with care, if the child has had a physical examination and whatever inoculations may be recommended by the physician, the wise parent should stop worrying, should avoid smothering the child with remote control affection through letters and numerous boxes of food, and should in general act like a well-regulated adult. In no event will he go up to the camp, except on visitor's day, for to do so may make his child a baby. The way to the other campers.

A folder describing most of the camps serving Southern California area is available in many libraries and Chambers of Commerce. List of specific places where it may be found can be obtained free by addressing a request to the Welfare Planning Council, 729 South Figueroa St., Los Angeles.



MYSTERIOUS MEETING . . . Among those on hand to welcome East Indian magician Gogis Pasha on his arrival at International Airport last week was Torrance's Ken Bickford. Bickford, well-known local magician, greeted Pasha who is en route to Miami Beach, Fla., for convention of International Brotherhood of Magicians.

Services Noting Lesson Sermon Lord's Supper Sunday Takes Planned Sunday God As Theme

The Lord's Supper will be observed Sunday at the 11 a.m. service of the First Presbyterian Church, 1842 Gardena Blvd. The session will meet at 10:30 a.m. with new members who will be received before communion. Mrs. John Richardson will sing "He Shall Feed His Flock" from Handel's Messiah. Mrs. Florence Jolley will lead the choir and Mrs. Lois Taylor has prepared Communion music.

At Westminster Fellowship at 7 p.m. Rev. Truman Jolley will speak on the requested subject of "What Is Predestination?" Norman Sprankle will preside and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sprankle will be sponsors.

That all men are endowed with self-government reason, and conscience is told in the Lesson-Sermon on "God" in all Christian Science churches Sunday. On this subject Mary Baker Eddy says in "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," "God has endowed man with inalienable rights, among which are self-government, reason, and conscience. Man is properly self-governed only when he is guided rightly and governed by his Maker, divine Truth and Love" (p. 106).

The example of Gideon, who turned the thought of his people away from personal adulation to the contemplation of God as their ruler, is cited in Judges (8:23), "And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you; the Lord shall rule over you."

Methodists Re-Appoint Pastors

The Rev. John L. Taylor and the Rev. Donald J. Shelby were reappointed to the First Methodist Church of Torrance by the Southern California Arizona Conference of the Methodist Church, which met last week at the University of Redlands.

This will be the fifth year of service in the Torrance church for Rev. Taylor and the third for Rev. Shelby.

Judging to Start on Area Poultry Ranch Merit Award

Sanitary conditions, efficient handling of fertilizer, elimination of flies, cleanliness and good repair of fences, buildings, and poultry areas, and drainage control constitute the main judging factors.

Judging is under the general control of Ken Christoffersen of Torrance, aided by Ed Maginn of the South Coast area; Roscoe Hoover of the Pomona-Clearmont area; Edward Bender of the San Gabriel Valley area; Nelson Davis of the San Fernando Valley; and Elmer Gorstline of the Antelope Valley area.

Judging will continue for two weeks and winners will be announced by the end of July and will be presented with "Ranch Award of Merit" signs for display at their farm entrances.

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